

REMARKS

Claims 10-19 remain present in this application.

Claims 17-19 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 112

Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, in which the dependency of claims 17-19 has been corrected, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been addressed and that the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the instant invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner has allowed claims 10-16. Although no indication of allowable subject matter is given for claims 17-19, because no prior art rejection has been given to these claims, and because the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection has been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that all claims should be in condition for allowance.

Search Results

It is respectfully noted that it is unclear whether the Examiner has conducted a search of the invention, in accordance with MPEP § 702.01(A). Although the Examiner has referred to "the prior art reference" in the Detailed Action, a PTO-892 Form has not been provided to the undersigned to demonstrate what specific "prior art reference" has been utilized by the Examiner. **It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner provide the undersigned with such a PTO-892 form.**

It is noted that MPEP § 702.01(A) requires that the Examiner inform the Applicant if no search has been made. It is believed that such a search should have been made, however, and this application should now be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

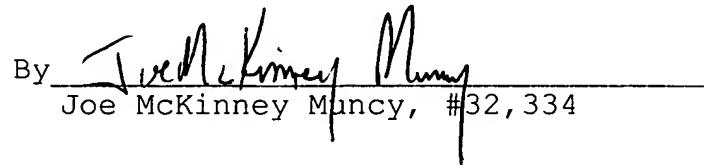
Because the prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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